

The Heavens 1321

Chapter 1321: 58 Variations

Kou Chongxue's question caused True Immortal Ban to sink into silence. Only after some time did he speak again, "Your guess isn't exactly unfounded. The Spirit Mammoth World and Spirit Abundance most likely can control Seventh Order energy, and that is also one of the reasons they turned against my Spirit Tinkle World back then. They probably thought that we weren't qualified to be on the same level as them in the first place..."

True Immortal Ban's revelation caused everyone to sink into silence.

It didn't matter if the Spirit Tinkle World's entry to the alliance between the Spirit Abundance World and Spirit Mammoth World was forced, but everyone could feel the pain of the loss of half their True Immortals.

True Immortal Ban didn't stop there. He continued, "As for the type of Seventh Order energy those worlds control... I'm afraid only the high-level experts of those worlds would know. Things like these aren't something they will reveal easily, even to their allies."

Qu Guan and the other True Immortals of the Spirit Thistle World, along with Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue, nodded slowly in agreement.

As it turned out, True Immortal Ban wasn't finished. He continued, "However, the Spirit Abundance World and Spirit Mammoth World definitely had interactions with the other worlds outside the Star Curtain. The Spirit Abundance World suffered massive losses because of that, but even so, they probably had close contact with the Essence Ming World and Essence Hong World through the spatial tunnels connected to the Star Relay. As such, the Spirit Abundance World ability to control Seventh Order energy probably has something to do with them."

Shang Xia sank deep into thought. He learned from Gao Qin that the Essence Refining Void Returning Formation the Star Origin Dao Field possessed came from the Essence Ming World. When Tong Yutang killed Zhuge Xiang, he most definitely colluded with the experts of the Essence Ming World and Essence Hong World. It was obvious that True Immortal Ban wasn't coming up with random bullshit.

"As for the Spirit Mammoth World... They should be the world in our Heaven Observation Dao Field that is the most successful when it comes to interacting with worlds outside the Star Curtain. They should also be the first world that started doing it. As such, their ability to control Seventh Order energy might come from their achievements and discovery in the sea of stars..." True Immortal Ban concluded.

Once he was done, True Immortal Qu turned to look at Kou Chongxue to ask, "Patriarch Kou, we heard that your Spirit Luxuriant World once had an interaction with the Essence Ming World. Is that true?"

Kou Chongxue snorted in response, "An interaction? More like a run-in with them... We formed a huge grudge and it's not really possible for us to get any information from them."

Qu Guan nodded slowly and continued, “Since that’s the case, we can only hope that you continue to take note of them for the time being. After all, we only have a single connection with them at the moment...”

Kou Chongxue didn’t say more. He simply nodded slightly to indicate his understanding.

Shang Xia might have killed a second tier True Immortal of the Essence Ming World and heavily wounded True Immortal Gao Qin, but that didn’t mean that their relationship was at an irreconcilable state.

Moreover, the Spirit Luxuriant World also held the trump card that was Song Zhen. If they really had no other avenues, they would simply interact with the Star Pirates in the Chaotic Sea of Stars. The only concern they would have there was how many hands the information they required would pass through...

It was then that Shang Xia noticed the high-level True Immortals of the Spirit Thistle World interacting with each other. Soon, Qu Guan addressed everyone again. “Let our Spirit Thistle World get to the bottom of the Seventh Order energy used by the Spirit Abundance World.”

They didn’t say how they were going to do so, and the other True Immortals didn’t ask.

After all, the matter seemed to concern the highest-level secrets of the Spirit Thistle World.

Since they mentioned the situation with the other powers, it was time to talk about what they were supposed to do.

As the saying goes, know yourself and know your enemy, and you will never be defeated.

Qu Guan cleared his throat and continued, “Since we are done speaking about the Star Origin Dao Field, Spirit Mammoth World, and Spirit Abundance World, it’s time to talk about what we have to do...”

True Immortal Cao Jian, the fourth tier Elysium True Immortal of the Spirit Thistle World was the first to speak. “We have 7 high-level True Immortals from our worlds, but True Immortal Ban and I wouldn’t be able to take part in the battle. Sending only 5 high-level True Immortals to the Essence Ping World doesn’t seem enough...”

His gaze landed on the third tier Free True Immortals sitting below and he continued, “That is why we gathered all of you for this meeting. Please prepare to join the battle.”

Yang Taihe and Zhang Xuansheng’s clone felt another wave of awkwardness washing over them. As Elysium True Immortals, they were clearly unable to take part in the operation to the Essence Ping World.

Qu Guan quickly picked up where Cao Jian left off. “Well, next comes the main problem we have to face. How are we supposed to wield Seventh Order energy? If we are not able to, we won’t be able to fight against the others...”

As the strongest expert and host of the meeting, True Immortal Zuo Li finally spoke. “Our Spirit Thistle World has many defensive talismans, but all of them are of the sixth rank. However, we do have a special formation that is able to conceal our tracks. The only problem here is that the limitations of laying down the formation are huge and we can’t move about freely when doing so.”

True Immortal Shao, who barely spoke earlier, finally asked, “Is this formation able to help us evade experts in the Martial Emptiness Realm?”

“Where are we going to find Martial Emptiness Realm experts?” Zuo Li laughed.

Slightly taken aback, True Immortal Shao’s lips trembled slightly but she no longer spoke.

Shang Xia understood Zuo Li’s concern when mentioning the formation earlier, and he shook his head while sighing, “Impossible. Grandmaster Chu is only at the Martial Dipper Realm and she will not take part in this operation.”

Sighing softly, Zuo Li could only mumble in resignation, “That’s a shame.”

“However...” Shang Xia continued suddenly, “If your Spirit Thistle World trusts me, you can try to let Grandmaster Chu modify the formation and we might be able to learn another easier way of deploying it on the battlefield.”

Zuo Li gasped suddenly, “What do you mean?”

Shang Xia replied placidly, “It’s simple. Grandmaster Chu can pass me her Formation Divine Artifact and I will be able to make use of it after the formation is modified.”

“Oh!” Zuo Li yelled in shock, but he didn’t agree immediately. Instead, he exchanged glances with the other high-level True Immortals of the Spirit Thistle World before finally replying, “This isn’t something I can make the decision on right now. Please wait for a few days... I will give you a reply as soon as possible.”

Shang Xia nodded. Seeing how seriously they took the matter of the formation, Shang Xia understood that the formation wasn’t going to be ordinary. As such, he started to anticipate its actual power.

With the members of the Spirit Thistle World done, everyone turned to the high-level True Immortals of the Spirit Tinkle World.

True Immortal Ban hesitated slightly before he mumbled, “If I’m not guessing wrongly, all of us here have tried to look into the Star Origin Guards’ battle formation, right? Should we share what we know about it?”

Kou Chongxue cast a glance at Shang Xia before asking, “True Immortal Ban, what do you mean?”

“Patriarch Kou, do you really not know? Well, it’s fine. It’s not like this is a huge secret anyway. I believe our fellow friends of the Spirit Thistle World have also discovered the uniqueness of the Star Origin Guards’ battle formation. In a single camp, all 49 of them can use join forces to deploy 49 different battle formations in total depending on the number of experts on their side. When broken up into 7 squads, they can use 7 different variations of their battle formation. There is also a grand battle formation involving every single Star Origin Guard, and there is also another variant of their battle formation that can be used when 7 Camp Commanders gather. In total, they have 58 variations of their battle formation!”

Chapter 1322: Agreement

There was no need to mention Kou Chongxue. Even Shang Xia's jaws dropped when he heard the news.

Kou Chongxue couldn't help but ask, "For there to be so many variations of their battle formation... Can they even complete their training for all of them?"

True Immortal Shao spoke again, "It's nothing too difficult. The members in each squad and camp are pretty much fixed and they wouldn't be shifted around a lot. All they have to do is to train with the same people every time."

"Do you mean to say that each variation of their battle formation is different? Wouldn't that mean that when different camps work together, their battle formation would be slightly different? What would happen then? From what I know, even when they work across different camps, their battle formation doesn't seem to be affected..." Shang Xia raised an eyebrow and questioned at the side.

True Immortal Shao shook her head and sighed, "I don't know the specifics, but what I can be sure of is that their battle formation has something to do with their Star Robes."

Shang Xia frowned and looked at Kou Chongxue.

Kou Chongxue understood that Shang Xia was asking if it was information Feng Ziyang had sent back before, but he shook his head so slightly such that the others wouldn't notice anything. After all, he didn't know anything about it.

After a moment of contemplation, Shang Xia asked True Immortal Ban, "When Tong Yutang worked with the True Immortals of the other worlds to kill Zhuge Xiang, were the experts of your world involved?"

"We did..." True Immortal Ban nodded slightly and continued, "I know what you wish to ask. Back then, Tong Yutang used the battle formation that the 7 Camp Commanders would use. The battle formation is meant to be used by True Immortals, and other than Tong Yutang and Xing Xingtian, the others only received a short guide on how to use their part of the battle formation. Everything would be controlled by Tong Yutang and if we wish to understand the secrets of the battle formation, we will need to grab Tong Yutang and beat it out of him. Otherwise... Even if everyone else brought out the guide they were given, we wouldn't be able to learn the battle formation."

True Immortal Ban spoke in detail about the cooperation between the Spirit Tinkle World and Tong Yutang when they killed Zhuge Xiang, but he didn't know anything about the battle formation. Throughout his explanation, he never said anything about the identity of the person who took part.

Shang Xia didn't harp on the reason behind it, but there was no need for him to hide some matters regarding his involvement. He quickly added, "Before they surrounded and killed Zhuge Xiang, Tong Yutang once requested the Talisman Grandmasters of the various worlds to craft a Variant Formation Talisman. I was a part of them and discovered that the Formation Talisman I was to craft

wasn't complete. It's only a small part of the actual talisman, but it seems to also be related to the Star Robes. Does anyone here know anything about it?"

"True Immortal Shang, so you were the one who was involved..." Cao Jian couldn't help but speak up again, "My sect once had a Talisman Grandmaster who was about to step into the sixth rank, and he was hired by the Star Origin Guards for a high price. Unfortunately, he was unable to complete the talisman initially. Only after receiving another similar talisman did he manage to barely replicate it. Originally, I thought that my sect would be able to produce another rank six Talisman Grandmaster soon, but he died in an accident soon after.. It was a shame..."

"I'm afraid it's no accident. He was silenced by them." Shang Xia replied.

Turning abruptly to face Shang Xia, the anger in his eyes was evident and clear.

Shang Xia quickly explained the powerful strike across the stars he experienced not too long after completing the talismans.

After he was done, Shang Xia turned to True Immortal Ban and laughed, "I recall how when I was returning to the Spirit Luxuriant World from the Azure Flame World, the Spirit Abundance World launched another invasion. Among them were 3 experts from your Spirit Tinkle World..."

True Immortal Ban forced a chuckle. "True Immortal Shang, please understand that it all happened in the past... True Immortal Jiu and the other 2 were killed in the War of the Spirit Tinkle World and our rank six Talisman Grandmaster who crafted the Formation Talismans for Tong Yutang also went missing. From the looks of it... He should have met his end under Tong Yutang's devious schemes..."

Shang Xia was slightly taken aback, but he shook his head and no longer cared about the matter of the Spirit Tinkle World's involvement.

Qu Guan seemed to have thought of something and he quickly asked, "True Immortal Shang, do you have a plan to replicate the Camp Commanders Battle Formation of the Star Origin Guards?"

"Yes. I believe all of you have seen the might of the battle formation during the War of the Spirit Tinkle World. The Spirit Mammoth World and Spirit Abundance World had more than 10 high-level True Immortals, but they didn't dare to easily take on the attacks of the Camp Commanders whose cultivation was of random levels."

A light shone in Gu Guan's eyes and he asked, "True Immortal Shang, you seem confident enough... Do you have something to rely on to be so sure we can replicate it?"

Glancing at Kou Chongxue, Shang Xia eventually nodded after a slight hesitation. "Does the Star Origin Lord Robe count?"

"WHAT?!"

"Whose robes again?! Did you get it from Zhuge Xiang?!"

"You actually got your hands on it!"

“So... You’ve been to the Essence Ping World!”

“Were you related to Wen Juxiang’s death?!”

One had to admit that everyone present was extremely sharp and they were a bunch of elite cultivators. Shang Xia only revealed the existence of the Star Origin Lord Robes when everyone managed to guess most of the events he was involved in.

Even though they were merely asking some questions at the moment, they already knew the answer in their hearts.

The third tier True Immortals in the hall also shot Shang Xia a complicated gaze. It was especially so for Yang Taihe and Zhang Xuansheng’s clones. It seemed as though they were starting to lose control of their clones from the shock they received.

Shang Xia didn’t hide the existence of the Essence Ping World from them, but he didn’t mention everything he went through and what he gained when he returned. After all, things like that weren’t easily revealed.

Sucking in a long breath, Shang Xia muttered, “Everyone, we’re talking about the Camp Commanders Battle Formation right now. If we are able to replicate it, we might possess the ability to resist Seventh Order energy.”

The high-level True Immortals in the hall quickly composed themselves and Qu Guan was the first to speak again. “True Immortal Shang, as a rank six Talisman Grandmaster with the Star Origin Lord Robe, you had the opportunity to craft the Variant Formation Talismans Tong Yutang requested. I would like to make a bold assumption now... Have you grasped the method to craft all the Variant Formation Talismans?”

Shang Xia looked at everyone present and nodded slowly. “My research into them is nearing the end, but I need a little more time.”

Even though they guessed as much, Qu Guan and the others heaved a sigh of relief after hearing his affirmative answer.

True Immortal Ban nodded at True Immortal Shao at the side and True Immortal Shao responded quickly. It didn’t take long before a robe that had a 70 percent resemblance to the Star Robes appeared before Shang Xia.

True Immortal Shao explained, “My Senior Brother once took part in the battle to kill Zhuge Xiang. This is something he left behind. True Immortal Shang, will this be useful for your research?”

Shang Xia carefully examined the Star Robe in his hand and a look of joy appeared on his face. “Of course! This is great. However, the material used to make this...”

“I’m afraid you will need to ask Tong Yutang about this. He personally prepared the materials required...” True Immortal Shao shook her head and sighed.

Qu Guan interrupted suddenly, “Looks like all we need to do is to understand the Camp Commander Battle Formation and learn the method to replicate all 7 Star Robes...”

“5...” Shang Xia waved the Star Robe he received from True Immortal Shao and continued, “We have this, and there is no need to replicate the Star Origin Lord Robe.”

Chapter 1323: Gathering Their Strength

After that, the high-level True Immortals discussed matters regarding the defense of their worlds when they were gone and how they would share intelligence.

Reaching an agreement, their discussion finally concluded. With that 3 days had already passed.

At the end of their discussion, Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia brought Zhang Xuansheng and Yang Taihe’s clone to bid everyone farewell. When Qu Guan escorted them back to the Five Element Teleportation Formation, he looked at the clones with a profound gaze and muttered, “Patriarch Kou, True Immortal Shang, our Spirit Thistle World, and the Spirit Tinkle World have already consolidated our complete fighting strength to face whatever it coming. Against the great powers, we have to ensure there is no internal strife and all of us have to stand on the same front.”

As soon as the words left his lips, the clones’ expressions changed.

Finally bidding him farewell, the True Immortals of the Spirit Luxuriant World made their way back. After bidding their farewell to Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia, the clones quickly returned to make their reports to their true bodies.

Shang Xia looked at Kou Chongxue with a curious expression and asked, “What do you think those 2 will do next?”

Without even turning his head, Kou Chongxue snorted, “A wise man submits to circumstances. You’re underestimating the 2 of them, and you’re also underestimating our Spirit Luxuriant World.”

Shang Xia didn’t respond as he returned to the Tongyou Institution for a few days to take a short break before returning to Star Beast Nest No.2 to continue his research on the Variant Formation Talismans.

Before he left, he heard an interesting piece of news from the Hai Continent. Spiritual beasts seem to be gathering in the sea around the Hai Continent and they are starting to become a threat to the coastal regions of the Hai Continent and the continents around it.

Naturally, the sea spiritual beast tide didn’t alert the members of the Spirit Luxuriant World. Instead, they became extremely excited. Many factions sent the low to mid-level cultivators they had been nurturing to the coastal cities to gain combat experience.

After those sea spiritual beasts were killed, cultivators would be able to obtain a lot of spiritual treasures or material from their corpses.

Those cultivators not only improved their combat skills, and cultivation level, and obtained treasures when fighting the sea spiritual beasts, but they also ensured that the coastal cities remained intact. They also gained a good reputation in the Spirit Luxuriant World. It was a win-win-win-win situation!

As for the reason behind the sudden sea spiritual beast tide... Many people felt that it had something to do with the integration of the world fragment of the Spirit Dusk World.

After all, a huge portion of the landmass ended up in the oceans. The Yan Continent, You Continent, Liao Continent, and Liao Continent were connected to the oceans, and the Hai Continent was even worse as it stood alone in the massive ocean of the Spirit Luxuriant World.

The world fragment that was brought back by Shang Xia also contained massive seas, and no one knew what type of spiritual beasts they contained.

Of course... With the progress of the Spirit Luxuriant World, the spiritual beasts also received the blessing of the world and grew along with the cultivator. Those in the sea weren't the only ones who grew stronger as those in the wilderness of the various continents and mountain ranges also advanced. They were starting to form massive packs while consolidating their strength.

The only difference between the spiritual beasts on land and those at sea was the fact that those in the sea had a place to hide and grow. With the strong control the various factions have over the land, the spiritual beasts that lived on land seemed a lot weaker.

There were even some spiritual beast packs on land that were controlled by the various factions. Some were allowed to roam free on purpose, and others simply submitted to the rule of humans. An example of such would be the Mutated Rain Swallows in the Thousand Leaf Mountain Range. Their leader was a rank five Lightning Bird, and they always maintained a friendly relationship with the Tongyou Institution.

The Tongyou Institution also made use of them to gather a large batch of Swallow Fur. They were used to make high-grade Spatial Pouches that could contain a lot of treasures, and it was one of their main essence crystal makers.

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Another half a year passed in the blink of an eye, and the 23rd year of the Spirit Luxuriant Calendar rolled about.

Above the heavenly screen above the Jiao Continent, the construction of the Spirit Luxuriant Hall was completed, and it would serve as the meeting point of True Immortals!

Its main use was for the True Immortals to discuss matters related to the world, but after it was constructed, it was split into the inner and outer hall. The inner hall would be where the True Immortals discussed matters of great importance, while the other hall would be open to the higher-ups of the factions that possessed Holy Lands.

On the day of the opening ceremony, 15 True Immortals from the 6 great powers gathered in the inner hall while the core members of the other factions gathered in the outer hall.

Other than Shang Xia, who was the only one who sent a second tier True Immortal clone, the others came with their true bodies.

The inner hall was extremely wide, and the seats that had been arranged for every other True Immortal other than the chair of the meeting were such that they tried to show no intentional segregation between those of higher cultivation level. However... When all of them gathered, they unanimously decided to let Kou Chongxue take the main seat.

Even though Shang Xia didn't head over personally, his identity and cultivation were too special to ignore. He naturally sat right beside Kou Chongxue. The others took a seat according to their

cultivation realms and Sun Haiwei and Ge Qingzhu who most recently entered the Martial Void Realm naturally sat at the very back.

Just like that, a very interesting scene could be seen in the Spirit Luxuriant Hall. The main seat and the one right beside it were occupied by members of the Tongyou Institution, and so did the last 2 seats.

Whatever it was, everyone was clear about the agenda of their meeting.

After the gathering of high-level True Immortals of the 3 worlds back then, Yang Taihe and Zhang Xuansheng's clones reported the collective strength of their alliance. The information was so widespread that even many factions that possessed Holy Lands heard of it.

The Northern Sea Mystic Sect and Eternal Palace didn't choose to hide what they heard for themselves.

It was precisely as Kou Chongxue had said. Both of them were smart men who knew how to adapt to their circumstances.

Well... To put it more accurately, they had no choice. After all, if their alliance failed, they would be doomed.

That was also why there were so many experts from the other factions waiting in the outer hall to hear the outcome of the True Immortals' discussion.

As everyone in the inner hall was prepared, their meeting went rather smoothly. With 2 high-level True Immortals presiding over the meeting, everyone else promised to increase their contributions and intelligence channels. They also swore to stand by each other to face their external threats.

As the host of the meeting, Kou Chongxue seemed to be the leader of the alliance and held absolute authority. He had the ability to deploy any faction as long as it didn't force them to reveal any of their core secrets or to intentionally place them under enemy fire.

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With Kou Chongxue integrating the strength of the Spirit Luxuriant World, Song Zhen came to visit Shang Xia in his courtyard in Star Beast Nest No.2.

"I wish to return to the Chaotic Sea of Stars!"

Song Zhen, who had been recuperating in Star Beast Nest No.1, raised a shocking request the moment he paid Shang Xia a visit

Chapter 1324: Song Zhen's Task

Shang Xia looked at him in shock. "True Immortal Song, why is that?"

Song Zhen put on a solemn but earnest expression as he explained, "The first reason for my request is because my injuries are healed. The second is because I'm not one to stay in a place for long. Life is too boring in the other Star Beast Nest. Moreover, I'm not a member of your Spirit Luxuriant World, and rather than wasting my energy to integrate myself, I would rather spend more time helping you and your faction with other tasks..."

Shang Xia didn't know how to respond to his request for the time being.

Song Zhen was a second tier Free True Immortal, and if he could be integrated into the Tongyou Institution, even with the suppression of the World's Will, he would be able to bring them up to new heights in terms of collective strength.

What's more... The focus of the various worlds in the Heaven Observation Field has turned to the Essence Ping World. The balance of power between the different alliances might be broken at any time and a second tier True Immortal was valuable fighting strength!

Also, as Song Zhen said... As a Star Pirate who had operated in the Chaotic Sea of Stars, he would be most useful when sent out to other places.

Thinking long term, with the Star Curtain about to crumble, sending Song Zhen, their important chess piece out, not only could allow the Tongyou Institution and the Spirit Luxuriant World to gain a better understanding of the sea of stars outside the Heaven Observation Field. It would prove greatly beneficial for all of them.

Song Zhen also understood that his actions were under Shang Xia's control. Even though his suggestion was reasonable, he could only follow Shang Xia's decision.

A moment later, Shang Xia seemed to have made up his mind and mumbled, "Do you know what will happen when you return to the Chaotic Sea of Stars? I'll tell you right now... You won't be bringing the Spirit World Ark back."

A look of joy flashed across Song Zhen's face when he heard that there was hope for his return to the Chaotic Sea of Stars and he nodded quickly. "I understand. If I reappear in the Chaotic Sea of Stars now, the Piercing Cloud Bandits will most likely discover my return immediately and I will be hunted by them."

Shang Xia shook his head and sighed, "I'm afraid it wouldn't just be the Piercing Cloud Bandits. This is a Spirit World Ark we're talking about. A Spirit World fragment is already a treasure for which many Star Pirate groups will go to war. What's more, you even have information on the Heaven Observation Field now..."

Song Zhen couldn't help but force a chuckle.

Shang Xia continued, "Even so... Do you still wish to return to the Chaotic Sea of Stars?"

Even though he looked uncertain for a second and seemed to be weighing the risks, he eventually nodded after some hesitation. "Yes, I am sure."

Shang Xia knew that his mind was set and he asked, "How do you plan to return to the Chaotic Sea of Stars? Are you going through the Essence Ming World or Essence Xing World?"

The Spirit Luxuriant World didn't possess a spatial tunnel that led to the Chaotic Sea of Stars, but they had the Star Beast Nests. They could send Song Zhen to either the Essence Xing World or the Essence Ming World for him to return.

Both Essence Worlds definitely had a spatial tunnel that led to the Chaotic Sea of Stars. The only thing Shang Xia was afraid of was that with the control those worlds had over those spatial tunnels, Song Zhen's identity might be discovered when he made his way back.

Song Zhen seemed to have his considerations and he stated with certainty, "I will leave from the Essence Ming World!"

“Hm?” Slightly taken aback, Shang Xia asked, “Why?”

It would be fine if he left successfully, but if he was discovered by Essence Ming World... They probably wouldn't need to take him in for questioning for a lot of information to be revealed the moment a Star Pirate from the Essence Xing World appeared in the Essence Ming World...

Song Zhen replied honestly, “Lord, do you remember the Star Chart you obtained from the Dark Star Pirate?”

Shang Xia nodded slowly. “What's the matter? Are you planning to make use of that route to leave? Do you need me to lend you the token from the Dark Star Pirate?”

Waving his hands, Song Zhen laughed, “The Dark Star Pirate who was killed was a second tier True Immortal. Moreover, the Dark Star Pirates are backed by a terrifying force and they most definitely have an existence at the Martial Emptiness Realm among them. The person you killed is most definitely not a nameless nobody either. The token might be able to scare some small fries along my way, but if I really expose its existence, I'm afraid they will start to hunt me down immediately!”

“As for the way to leave... Every world has strict control over the region of space around it, but as long as they don't completely seal off the entire region, there will be ways to leave sneakily. There will definitely be smugglers who specialize in it too... As long as I manage to find them, leaving the Essence Ming World's Heavenly Field shouldn't prove to be a problem!”

“Oh? Smuggling?” Shang Xia seemed to fall deep into thought as he mumbled to himself.

Seeing Shang Xia hesitating, Song Zhen quickly continued, “Lord, please rest assured. There's a solution for every problem... When the time comes, all I have to do is to change my appearance. It won't be too difficult to find those people...”

“Changing your appearance doesn't mean that you changed your aura. You won't be able to hide the mark of the Piercing Cloud Bandits on you either. If I let you go like this, won't I just be sending you to your death?” Shang Xia mumbled with raised eyebrows.

Under Song Zhen's dumbfounded gaze, Shang Xia waved and several talismans that were covered in spiritual light landed on him.

From the shock on his face, it was evident that those talismans were of an extremely high grade. They were at least rank six talismans!

Even in the Chaotic Sea of Stars, rank six talismans were rarely seen. Every single rank six talisman was a treasure that was hidden as trump cards by every capable True Immortal.

Song Zhen, with his dozens of years of experience, hadn't seen more than 3 rank six talismans. There were actually 5 of them hovering before him at the moment!

He might know that Shang Xia was a Talisman Grandmaster, but he never imagined he would be bestowed 5 rank six talismans with a simple wave of a hand! A trace of gratitude that he hadn't felt in a long time filled his heart.

It was then that Shang Xia pointed at the talismans to introduce, “ 2 of them are Six Harmony Teleportation Talismans, and it is able to ignore spatial barriers. Even an Elysium or the heavenly screen cannot stand in your way. Of course, that will affect the distance, but if you use it in the void, you should be able to travel a million miles or so.”

“This...” Song Zhen’s eyes widened in shock.

As a Star Pirate, how could he not understand the worth of those talismans?

When Shang Xia introduced the effects, he had already estimated the value of those talismans dozens of times over.

“... There’s also an Illusion Talisman. Not only can it transform your aura, it can also hide your cultivation realm. You can use it to show the aura of any cultivator below the fourth tier of the Martial Void Realm without being discovered.”

“As for that talisman... It’s the Abyss Prison Emptiness Talisman. The last is a True Space Restriction Palm Talisman...”

Song Zhen waved his hands in fright and interrupted Shang Xia, “Lord, what do you require me to do in the Chaotic Sea of Stars? I will do my best no matter what it is!”

“Oh...” Shang Xia glanced at Song Zhen and snapped back to reality from introducing the talismans. He quickly stated, “There are 3 main tasks you need to do. The first is to establish a Star Pirate group, while ensuring your safety. The second is to look for information in the Chaotic Sea of Stars about the Spirit Mammoth World and Spirit Abundance World. Also, pay attention to the situation about the Essence Xing World. The third and last thing you need to do is to join in the plundering of other worlds as much as possible. When you do so, take note of the 3 Holy Artifacts of any Elysiums. If you know where any of them are, try your best to get your hands on them. I’ll compensate you for any losses you might suffer because of that.”

Chapter 1325: Elysium Defensive Formation

After weighing his considerations, Shang Xia decided to let Song Zhen leave.

Naturally, he had a way to keep Song Zhen under his control even after he left. He had many ways to do so... Otherwise, he wouldn’t allow Song Zhen to leave so easily. He even gave him 5 rank six talismans!

Even though he didn’t state it explicitly, Song Zhen understood that Shang Xia definitely placed some hidden measures in him to ensure there was no betrayal. It was just that he hadn’t found out what they were.

Song Zhen wasn’t surprised at all. He even felt that it was natural for Shang Xia to do so.

Without even mentioning how Shang Xia captured and placed him under control back then. In the Chaotic Sea of Stars, methods of controlling others are plentiful, and there are so many that made a captive unable to resist that he didn’t bother counting.

He might have been the Fourth Chief of the Piercing Cloud Bandits, a mighty second tier True Immortal, and possessed some sort of strange brand from Gao Takong, the Piercing Cloud Bandits Chief, he was sure that Shang Xia's methods were even stronger.

Not only did Shang Xia not wipe away the brand from Gao Takong, but he even managed to conceal it well with multiple layers of restrictions so that the Piercing Cloud Bandits wouldn't be able to track him.

...

When Song Zhen left, he didn't just take the 5 rank six talismans Shang Xia prepared. He also took more than 10 rank five talismans and even more rank four talismans. There were even 2 rank four Talisman Seals Shang Xia prepared.

He couldn't help but praise Shang Xia's amazing skills when he saw the Talisman Seals. With them, he would definitely be able to establish a faction of his own in the Chaotic Sea of Stars.

Not too long after he left, Shang Xia's clone that took part in the meeting in the Spirit Luxuriant Hall returned and the memories of everything that happened entered his mind.

Interesting... Zhang Xuansheng actually took out a grand formation that has the ability to shield the entire world... Yin Jingxu is a real stingy bastard... He actually requested for the other great powers to donate resources to help establish the Heavenly Star Elysium... Lu Wuzi also followed behind him and made the same request. Oh? The Ice Essence Sect actually already has an Origin Holy Artifact. Right, I forgot, we got it for him.

Shang Xia thought to himself. If the Heavenly Star Palace and Ice Essence Sect establish their Elysiums, the Spirit Luxuriant World would possess 7 great Elysiums!

Right... As for why they had been calling themselves the 6 great powers before, Shang Xia completely forgot that there was a faction that didn't possess an Elysium ranked among them. But he didn't care too much either as it wasn't too important.

Zhang Xuansheng's grand formation actually required the foundations of 5 Elysiums, and they already had that many in the first place.

Of course, if they were able to add more Elysiums into the defensive formation, that would only greatly increase its power.

That was the exact excuse Yin Jingxu was using to get the other great powers to assist them in producing their Elysium.

The Heavenly Star Palace also possessed an Origin Holy Artifact, and their continent had reached the size of 9,000 miles. Because of their concentrated world origin, they were more than capable of supporting an Elysium.

What they lacked were the Heaven Supporting Jade Pillar and the Elysium Boundary Marker.

Those weren't treasures they could easily get their hands on if they were alone, but if they gathered the power of the Spirit Luxuriant World, it wasn't impossible to produce...

However, the true considerations came as an Elysium represented a True Immortal slot of the Spirit Luxuriant World. Even though they would only be able to produce an Elysium True Immortal, that

would mean that there would be 1 fewer Elysium True Immortal left for the others! After all, a Spirit World could only produce 9 Elysium True Immortals!

Also, if the great powers assisted the Heavenly Star Palace, Yin Jingxu would be a powerful Free True Immortal who could move as he pleased. With another Elysium True Immortal, their inheritance would only become more solid.

It was something the other great powers were unwilling to see.

There was even less of a need to mention Lu Wuzi who was also trying his luck to get the other powers to help him establish the Ice Essence Elysium.

Yin Jingxu understood their considerations. Even though everyone wanted to strengthen the Spirit Luxuriant World, that didn't mean that they would give up everything they had to others. If he really wanted to get their help, he would have to owe many favors.

...

Thinking long and hard about the grand formation Zhang Xuansheng revealed, Shang Xia seemed to have thought of something and started to flip through the physical report his clone brought back.

Indeed... Kou Chongxue also noticed something similar and openly asked Zhang Xuansheng, "How strong is this grand formation anyway? Is it able to resist Seventh Order energy?"

"If we link 7 Elysiums, it should be able to resist Seventh Order energy. With 8 Elysiums, we would be able to resist the invasion of an expert at the Martial Emptiness Realm. The formation would be even stronger with 9 Elysiums..." Was Zhang Xuansheng's reply.

Kou Chongxue could naturally differentiate between resisting Seventh Order energy and resisting an invasion of an expert at the Martial Emptiness Realm. However, he wanted to know more about the full might of the grand formation powered by 9 Elysiums, but Zhang Xuansheng said that he had no idea.

The Northern Sea Mystic Sect and Zhang Xuansheng were definitely still concealing the true extent of their knowledge and foundations.

However, they had to admit that his grand formation came at the perfect time. At the very least, it solved the problem of Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue leaving to take part in the operation to the Essence Ping World.

In the end, Yin Jingxu's proposal to get everyone's support to establish his Elysium was agreed upon, even though he would have to pay a considerable price.

Lu Wuzi's request was held off for the time being, and the main opposing forces were the Northern Sea Mystic Sect, Divine Capital Sect, and Eternal Palace.

Everyone knew that the Ice Essence Sect was basically the Tongyou Institution's fanboy as soon as it was established. They would follow the orders of the Tongyou Institution most of the time. Even so, Kou Chongxue had to consider the majority and he wisely maintained his silence on the matter for the time being.

Regardless... Be it Kou Chongxue or Shang Xia, they could see that the Northern Sea Mystic Sect, Eternal Palace, and Divine Capital Sect were standing together. They were intentionally pulling the Heavenly Star Palace to their side and at the very least, they didn't wish for the Heavenly Star Palace to lean towards the institution. Their intentions were too obvious.

The Northern Sea Mystic Sect's revelation of the grand formation came at the right time, and it was truly extraordinary. No one could deny their contributions. Even though it was clear what their plan was, Kou Chongxue couldn't say anything about it.

From the meeting report, Shang Xia also learned that Kou Chongxue had already concluded that the Heavenly Star Palace was about to establish their Elysium soon. Mentioning it so that they could gain the support of the other factions was just the final part of their plan.

... Moreover, if the Northern Sea Mystic Sect could reveal such a powerful inheritance, how could the Eternal Palace and Divine Capital Sect not have known beforehand?

As for the Heavenly Star Palace...

Shang Xia mumbled to himself, but not a single trace of worry could be seen in his eyes. Instead, his gaze was locked onto the Variant Formation Talisman he just produced.

It looked slightly different from the other 6 beside it... That was right, he completed the 7th talisman!

Chapter 1326: The Puzzle That Consists of 7 Variant Formation Talismans

Ever since getting his hands on the formula of the Variant Formation Formation from Tong Yutang, he could already tell that it was an extraordinary talisman. He also knew that there were other Formation Talismans in the same series.

Tong Yutang's attempt to silence him further proved his conjecture.

Shang Xia had never given up his research on his talisman. It had always been on the back of his mind whenever he was crafting or studying talismans.

The only problem back then was that he only knew 1 Variant Formation Talisman in the entire series and coming up with the rest was extremely difficult. As such, he didn't progress much into the creation.

Only after obtaining the Star Origin Lord Robe did things take a turn for the better. He discovered 3 Variant Formation Talismans used to make it easily, and he already knew 1 of them.

That wasn't what Shang Xia was celebrating at the moment. From the looks of it, the most important part of the robes was how the Variant Formation Talismans interacted with each other and brought out each other's might.

It also greatly accelerated his progress in his development of the Variant Formation Talismans. During the process, he got his hands on the crafting method of the Myriad Tinted Cloud Talisman. Understanding more about how different talismans interacted with each other, he became even more sure that the Variant Formation Talismans were parts of a rank seven talisman.

His research reached a new level, and he understood it was time for him to prepare to become a rank seven Talisman Grandmaster.

As he grew stronger, so did Feng Ziying, which also increased his position in the Star Origin Guards. The information he brought back greatly assisted Shang Xia.

During the meeting of the high-level True Immortals of the 3 Spirit Worlds, Shang Xia had the confidence to ask about replicating the Star Origin Guards' battle formation was because his research into the Variant Formation Talisman was close to concluding.

True Immortal Shao's replica Star Robes also contained a Variant Formation Talisman, and with it, Shang Xia's progress in its recreation grew rapidly.

After the meeting in the Spirit Thistle World, Shagn Xia quickly returned to Star Beast Nest No.2 and threw himself into his research of the Variant Formation Talismans, spending an entire year to create all 7 of them.

With the talismans, all that was left was the battle formation and how they would recreate Star Robes with the Variant Formation Talismans.

What Shang Xia was interested in was how he should fuse those talismans together. After all, the moment it was done, a rank seven talisman would be produced!

He had the example on the Star Origin Lord Robes, and he could use it as a reference when he started the fusion process. With additional attempts, he finally found a way to introduce the fourth talisman into the mix. When he was introducing the fifth, he discovered his greatest problem. Rank six talisman paper could no longer contain the power of the superimposition of 5 talismans!

He was placed in a really difficult spot. He could tell that even if he fused 5 talismans together, it wouldn't reach the standard of a rank seven talisman yet.

That meant that he needed additional treasures in order to withstand the power of the talismans such that they could be fused...

His gaze landed on the Star Origin Lord Robe. The Tongyou Institution had no idea what it was made of yet, and he had been asking the Spirit Tinkle World and Spirit Thistle Worlds for any information about it. Unfortunately, they didn't seem like they would reveal it easily.

Helpless, Shang Xia decided to place his hopes onto the special talisman paper used to make Myriad Tinted Cloud Talismans.

Even though Ren Huan had already started his research into it, it wasn't something he could replicate easily. From what Shang Xia could understand, Ren Huan was stuck on something.

He only gained inspiration after thinking about the Star Chart he obtained from the second tier True Immortal of the Essence Ming World. That was how he thought about the special talisman paper the Wanyun association provided.

Even though he knew that the special talisman paper he would need would be different from the one provided by the Wanyun Association, it was true that both talisman papers were of special quality.

In the end, Shang Xia couldn't help but think about the possibility of obtaining special talisman paper from the Essence Ming World.

Before that... he still had a few special talisman papers he could use to test out the feasibility of fusing the fifth talisman into the rest.

Wasting 4 sheets of special talisman paper, he finally completed the fusion. Unfortunately, that also stopped his progress of fusing the rest of the Variant Formation Talismans as he had run out of special rank six talisman paper.

Originally, he planned to save the special talisman paper used to craft Myriad Tinted Cloud Talismans. However, he ended up using them to craft Variant Formation Talismans.

Handing 2 semi-complete talismans that were made up of 5 Variant Formation Talismans to Hai Yuanyuan and ordering her to send it back to the Star Observatory in the institution, he wanted to get Yuan Qiuyuan and the rest to test out its abilities.

The reason he sent it back to the Star Observatory to be tested was because he had his suspicions. There were 3 Variant Formation Talismans that could be observed in the Star Origin Lord Robe, but when he wore it, his cultivation could reach the peak of the fifth tier! In Kou Chongxue's hands, it could allow him to possess the strength of an expert at the fifth tier of the Martial Void Realm, albeit not at its peak.

However... During his fusion process, even though his semi-complete talisman was made up of 5 Variant Formation Talismans, it didn't have an effect of raising his cultivation at all.

He was disappointed, but he also realized that there were many more secrets on the Star Robes.

...

The fused talisman might not show the full effects of the Star Robes, but it wasn't completely useless. At the very least, the Star Observatory learned that it could greatly increase the strength of purification of the power of starlight they could draw. The more Variant Formation Talismans he fused, the stronger the purification...

After using the power of starlight that had been purified, Yuan Qiuyuan was able to create Three Lights Water more easily, and gathering star elemental extermination origins and Origin Dippers became much faster than before. It greatly assisted Yuan Qiuyuan's cultivation.

Chapter 1327: Information From True Immortal Geng

Shang Xia didn't remain in Star Beast Nest No.2 for too long as he was forced to return to the Spirit Luxuriant World after receiving an emergency transmission.

He didn't return for a meeting in the Spirit Luxuriant Hall and neither was it because of a gathering called by the other 2 worlds. Instead, it was because the high-level True Immortal from the Essence Ming World who came to take over True Immortal Gao Qin had arrived and requested to speak to him.

It wasn't surprising that the Essence Ming World sent someone to take over Gao Qin, but what shocked Shang Xia was that they were willing to put their differences to the side for the time being to interact with Shang Xia. He was even suspecting that they already captured Song Zhen and learned something from him.

Rushing back to the Spirit Luxuriant World hastily, he didn't stop for anything as he activated the Five Element Teleportation Formation that led to Star Beast Nest No.1.

Lu Wuzi wasn't the only True Immortal standing guard there at the moment. Huang Jinghan and Yin Jingxu, both second tier True Immortals, had arrived earlier than Shang Xia. From both of

them, Shang Xia learned that Kou Chongxue had already approached the high-level True Immortal of the Essence Ming World and they were already laughing and joking with each other.

By the time Shang Xia arrived in the chaotic space outside the Star Beast Nest, the high-level True Immortal of the Essence Ming World immediately stopped the exchange with Kou Chongxue. He also shifted his position somewhere else in case he was attacked by Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue.

A faint smile appeared on Kou Chongxue's face, and he simply cupped his fists to the expert from the Essence Ming World. "True Immortal Geng, the person you are waiting for has arrived. I have something else to attend to and will take my leave now. Let's chat again in the future once we're free."

A flash of hesitation appeared on True Immortal Geng's face as soon as he saw Shang Xia. However, he responded casually to Kou Chongxue after hearing what was said. "Actually... It's better for me to discuss some matters with you... I didn't think that he had already become a fifth tier True Immortal!"

Kou Chongxue laughed softly but returned to the Star Best Nest without responding.

It was no wonder he was hesitating and felt that speaking to a fourth tier True Immortal of the Spirit Luxuriant World was more appropriate. However, Kou Chongxue felt the same. He didn't wish to continue messing around with a fifth tier True Immortal of the Essence Ming World as he would need to stay on heightened alert in case the other side tried to sneak attack him.

Since they were going to discuss matters, it would be best if both side had comparable cultivation realms. Anyway, even if they were really going to fight, Kou Chongxue wouldn't have to worry about being overpowered by the enemy right away.

Heh, even if you wish to exchange pointers, it's a matter between you fifth tier True Immortals! I'm out!

"True Immortal Geng..." Shang Xia learned about most of what happened when he was rushing to them. By the time he found a place in the chaotic void some distance away from the high-level True Immortal of the Essence Ming World, he cupped his hands and asked, "Is something the matter for you to request to speak with me?"

The smile on True Immortal Geng's face froze and his expression turned slightly awkward. "I didn't think that you would have already become a fifth tier True Immortal. This... This indeed calls for celebration! Haha..."

Shang Xia found him really interesting. He couldn't look more reluctant to accept the fact that Shang Xia had already advanced, but was trying to play it off anyway.

Maintaining his humble attitude, Shang Xia laughed, "It was all luck... In front of True Immortal Geng, I am but a junior."

Forcing a chuckle, a thought flashed through True Immortal Geng's mind. Not only did the Spirit Luxuriant World produce a fourth tier True Immortal much earlier than they imagined, the original fourth tier True Immortal also became a fifth tier True Immortal!

Is this really the Spirit World that barely came into existence 30 years ago Gao Qin spoke of?

Is she messing with me by getting them to send me over here after using her excuse of recovery to shake off her responsibilities of taking care of this region of space?!

When True Immortal Geng made his way over to the Spirit Faith World, he prepared a series of plans to deal with the Spirit Luxuriant World. When he discovered that Kou Chongxue had already entered the fourth tier of the Martial Void Realm and had already become a high-level True Immortal, he started to make adjustments to his plan. After all... Dealing with 2 fourth tier True Immortals might be difficult, but it wasn't impossible for a fifth tier True Immortal like himself.

However, when Shang Xia revealed himself, True Immortal Geng understood that it wasn't just time to adjust his plans. He probably had to redo it from scratch and come up with a different approach.

That was also why he was stumped when he saw Shang Xia for the first time. His image as a mighty fifth tier True Immortal also took a hit...

He was someone who loved to be prepared and to follow his plan to the letter. He wasn't great at changing his approach or adapting to the situation. He would prepare his plan with all sorts of contingencies and even multiple approaches and hated when it was messed up.

The other side throwing a sucker punch like that completely blindsided him, and it was the situation he hated the most.

As multiple plans flew through his mind, True Immortal Geng eventually decided to speak of his goal in the most straightforward way possible. Whatever it was, that wasn't the worst way his plan was messed up.

“Our Essence Ming World hopes to ensure the safety of the Spirit Faith World and their once affiliated worlds. We hope that you will not intrude on their worlds anymore and I will station myself there to ensure everything goes well. I also hope that all of us can interact harmoniously for the time being.” True Immortal Geng spoke of his main purpose the moment he arrived.

Shang Xia thought of something, but he didn't show any strange express as he revealed a soft smile. “Of course... How would we dare to mess with you? You are from the Essence Ming World, a superior world, while our Spirit Luxuriant World has barely existed for more than 20 years. With our shallow foundations, why would we dare to anger you?”

It was actually exactly as Shang Xia had described. The Essence Ming World was an Essence World and had Martial Emptiness Realm Sages at its helm. They were countless times stronger than the Spirit Luxuriant World. The Spirit Luxuriant World was only safe from them because their Star Beast Nest was hidden in the chaotic space. However... Regardless of what the situation was, there was no reason for an Essence World to seek peace with a Spirit World...

Unless... The Essence Ming World had no choice and had to temporarily put aside their differences for the time being to focus on something else!

What could actually cause the high and mighty Essence Ming World to request for a compromise with the Spirit Luxuriant World?!

With thought flying through Shang Xia's mind rapidly, he heard True Immortal Geng speak again, "True Immortal Shang, please... Even in an Essence World, a fifth tier True Immortal isn't a common existence. If you take a trip over to my world, you will definitely receive the best treatment."

"Oh? If I have the chance, I would really like to head over to your world to expand my horizons." Shang Xia laughed.

"I am ready to bring you around anytime!" True Immortal Geng followed up immediately, but he quickly returned to the topic at hand. "Right, True Immortal Shang, what do you think of my previous proposal?"

Laughing, Shang Xia replied, "True Immortal Geng, there is actually no need to make it so troublesome. You could actually speak to Patriarch Kou about it..."

Hearing how Shang Xia didn't give him a proper response, True Immortal Geng continued, "Patriarch Kou might be extraordinary when it comes to cultivation and combat abilities, your cultivation realm is still higher at the end of the day. If you agree, I believe the rest of your world will respect your decision and not try anything weird."

After a moment to contemplate, Shang Xia continued, "Actually, our Spirit Luxuriant World doesn't wish to make things difficult for your world either. We only wish to ensure our safety. Since True Immortal Geng is willing to represent your world to reach peace with us, we are more than willing to accept the offer."

Feeling as though he completed his task, True Immortal Geng felt a lot better than when he first saw Shang Xia. He couldn't help but laugh, "That would be for the best! Since we will interact harmoniously, we should establish friendly relations between each other. From how quickly True Immortal Shang is growing, I believe you will definitely have huge achievements in the future. If you have some free time, we should exchange pointers and learn from each other..."

"If you're willing, I couldn't ask for more!" Shang Xia laughed before asking another question, "What do you think about establishing trading fleets in order to strengthen the cooperation between us even more?"

"Oh? Can we also do that?" True Immortal Geng shot Shang Xia a strange look before responding, "That would be for the best..."

"True Immortal Geng, why does it feel like you think my request is strange?" Shang Xia asked after detecting his reaction.

"I thought that you guys would reject any cooperation because of the need to hide yourselves in the Heaven Observation Field..." True Immortal Geng replied candidly.

Heaven Observation Field... How could the Essence Ming World not know that the Spirit Luxuriant World was located in the Heaven Observation Field?!

Shang Xia forced a chuckle. "Looks like your world has long since known of the existence of the Heaven Observation Field. True Immortal Gao Qin had also personally entered the Star Origin Dao Field in the past and traveled around. I believe all of you have extremely in-depth knowledge of the

situation in the Heaven Observation Field. You should know that rather than sealing ourselves off, we might as well do the most we can to strengthen ourselves...”

True Immortal Geng thought for a moment before nodding his head solemnly. “That is truly so... After all, the Star Curtain the Star Origin Lord created back then won’t hold for long. Rather than being caught off guard when the worlds hidden in the Heaven Observation Field are revealed to the rest of the sea of stars, you might as well start your preparations now. It will ensure you have the best chances of survival...”

Shang Xia frowned in response. “Of course not... Even if the Star Curtain disappears, we still have the protection of the Star Origin Lord. If experts from the various powers in the sea of stars wish to invade this region, they will have to face the wrath of the Star Origin Lord, will they not?”

“Has the Star Origin Lord recovered? Hmm... That’s not right. Aren’t you afraid that he devours every single world within the Heaven Observation Field so that he can advance?” True Immortal Geng was slightly taken aback by Shang Xia’s question but he replied nonetheless.

Shang Xia was also surprised by his sudden revelation, but he reacted quickly, “If the Star Origin Lord is able to take the next step, won’t there be no one capable of stepping into the Heaven Observation Field any longer?”

True Immortal Geng shook his head and sighed, “This isn’t right. Your Spirit Luxuriant World is truly a new Spirit World. How can a fifth tier True Immortal like yourself not know this? If the Star Origin Lord devours the worlds in the Heaven Observation Field to advance, he will be able to create a new world on his own. How can all of you still have a chance to live?”

Shang Xia was feeling a little baffled in his heart, but he maintained a solemn expression on his face. “True Immortal Geng, are you mistaken? The True Immortals of the Star Origin Dao Field are preparing for the Star Origin Lord’s return right now. The Star Origin Guard Commanders have always been loyal to the Star Origin Lord and the 3rd Star Origin Guard Commander, Zhuo Gudao, has already reached the peak of the Martial Void Realm. He’s just a step away from entering the Martial Emptiness Realm...”

“Hehehe...” True Immortal Geng interrupted Shang Xia suddenly and when he saw Shang Xia’s expression turning dark, he quickly waved his hand and explained himself, “True Immortal Shang, please don’t misunderstand. It’s just... I’m afraid you have been lied to by the members of the Star Origin Guards. Not only do they not hope for the return of the Star Origin Lord, but they are probably coming up with all sorts of plans to stop it! They might even be planning to take advantage of the situation and gain some sort of benefits from what he left behind... No. They might have already split up whatever inheritance he had. They should be afraid he would take everything back once he recovers and they would be forced to return to their original state.”

Shang Xia snorted coldly in response, “Why are you telling me this now? Why should I believe you?”

Chapter 1328: Star Devouring Silkworm

Shang Xia and True Immortal Geng's interaction truly involved baiting information out from each other when they just started, but when Shang Xia heard how easily True Immortal Geng was giving out information about the Star Origin Dao Field, he couldn't help but think that True Immortal Geng was trying to mislead him.

In a cold voice, Shang Xia snorted, "Why are you telling me this now? Why should I believe you?"

True Immortal Geng paused for a moment and realized he might have revealed too much, but with Shang Xia's continued line of questioning, he responded with surprising honesty, "It doesn't matter if the Star Origin Lord returns to retrieve everything he left behind, or if the members of the Star Origin Dao Field wishes to steal his inheritance... Their final goal will be the unification of the Star Origin Dao Field to reach the next level. Is your world really not going to make preparations and wait for them to devour you?"

Shang Xia's expression changed slightly as he stared at True Immortal Geng with a little more wariness. "What's the matter? Is your Essence Ming World planning to start your schemes through my Spirit Luxuriant World?"

True Immortal Geng was slightly taken aback. He might not be good at adapting to the situation, but he was no fool. He replied immediately, "True Immortal Shang, if you and your world are willing... It's not like we can't discuss this matter. However, I am also very willing to let this happen and I will give it my all to assist you guys to make this a reality."

"Assistance? What can you do? The Star Origin Lord is able to create such a huge scheme because he's definitely at the Martial Emptiness Realm or higher! If the Star Origin Dao Field dares to try to covert his inheritance, they definitely have the ability to wield Seventh Order energy... Moreover, they can definitely use more than 1 type! I know that when the Star Origin Guards' grand battle formation is deployed, even ordinary Martial Emptiness Realm experts won't be able to gain an advantage over them. My Spirit Luxuriant World has been in existence for slightly more than 20 years and we have shallow foundations... How can we fight against them? Is your Essence Ming World going to provide us with a way to control Seventh Order energy?"

With how blatant Shang Xia was acting, even the honest True Immortal Geng saw through his true intentions. "Heh... You don't have to try to goat me into giving you that. My world definitely has a way to utilize Seventh Order energy, but that's not something I can agree to give away on a whim."

"As for the Star Origin Guards' grand battle formation... It is indeed extraordinary and has the ability to contend against ordinary Martial Emptiness Realm experts as shown in the battle outside the heavenly screen of the Spirit Tinkle World. However, the battle formation is too inflexible and it's limited to anyone who wears Star Robes. As long as anyone thinks of a way to destroy those robes, their battle formation would be greatly weakened." True Immortal Geng snorted.

Shang Xia shook his head and mumbled in a low voice, "Even if we have to destroy their Star Robes, that will involve some sort of covert operation and a lot of planning. It's not a method to

meet them head-on in battle. What my Spirit Luxuriant World needs is a way to wield Seventh Order energy in order to threaten those who are plotting against us. Unless we can get the method from your Essence Ming World, or if we can obtain the way to utilize the battle formation of the Star Origin Guards or a battle formation of equal strength, we won't join in the battle between the heavy weights of the Heaven Observation Field..."

Hearing how Shang Xia was still adamant about getting his hands on a way to wield Seventh Order energy, True Immortal Geng couldn't help but sneer, "Well, you better start to think of a way to solve your problems by getting some information from the Star Origin Dao Field. It's going to be much easier than whatever you're doing now."

He didn't expect Shang Xia to take his words so seriously as the high-level True Immortal standing opposite him seemed to fall deep into thoughts. "It's not going to be easy to get our hands on Star Robes, but it's not impossible. We should be able to get a Star Robe or two, but what's the use of having so few?"

He turned to True Immortal Geng and asked with shining eyes the next moment, "Do you have any way to make Star Robes?"

"The Star Robes that are worn by the Star Origin Guards are made through Starlight Silk created by Star Devouring Silkworms... They do so by swallowing the essence of starlight and it's something that is formless in the first place. However, after the silkworm devours the essence of starlight, the Starlike Silk they spit out will be able to take shape... Even though it sounds really strange and unbelievable, it's the truth. Ever since the Star Origin Lord brought the last batch of Star Devouring Silkworm away and sealed off the Heaven Observation Field, the various powers in the sea of stars haven't heard of them for more than 1000 years..."

"Star Devouring Silkworms?! Last batch of them?!" Shang Xia frowned and mumbled to himself with some doubt.

True Immortal Geng nodded seriously and continued, "It has been more than 1000 years since we last heard anything about Star Devouring Silkworms. All I know is that the dozens or so Star Devouring Silkworms the Star Origin Lord brought away are the last batch that were seen..."

Shang Xia seemed extremely disappointed and sighed, "In that case, getting our hands on Star Robes will be even more difficult..."

He didn't expect True Immortal Geng to break out into laughter the next moment. "Not really... Even though Star Devouring Silkworms are rarely seen, it's not as though there is no Starlight Silk left in the sea of stars. From what I know, several seniors from my world still have them and a portion of them were obtained from the Star Origin City..."

From the information Shang Xia had baited out of True Immortal Geng so far, the Star Origin Lord didn't completely seal off the Star Origin Dao Field from the sea of stars even after establishing the Heaven Observation Field. At the very least, the spatial tunnels to the Essence Ming World and Essence Hong World had always been maintained.

It wasn't impossible for the Essence Ming World to obtain Starlight Silk from the Star Origin Dao Field. However, the Star Robes had never been lost from the Star Origin Guards since the time they were established, and the various worlds knew very little about it.

The Star Origin Dao Field might be keeping the method of crafting the Star Robes a secret, but that didn't mean that they couldn't make different artifacts with Starlight Silk and sell them in the city.

Shang Xia immediately put on a wary look as if he was afraid True Immortal Geng would try to take advantage of them, but he eventually mumbled, "So... Is there a way for me to get a batch of Starlight Silk?"

True Immortal Geng roared with laughter as though he had been expecting it. "Even though Starlight Silk isn't used extensively, it's a treasure of high rank. However... Selling you Starlight Silk is also my intention. Why don't we deal in top-grade essence crystals?"

"Top-grade essence crystals?!" Shang Xia gasped, "Even in our Spirit Luxuriant World, we don't have many of those..."

"No matter what, you definitely have some. For experts at our level, high-grade essence crystals aren't that effective. Only top-grade essence crystals can be of some use to us. Of course, if you're willing to trade them with treasures of equivalent worth, I'm all for it." True Immortal Geng smiled.

In a low voice, Shang Xia growled, "No... Let's trade them with top-grade essence crystals..."

"Alright!" True Immortal Geng chuckled to himself, as though he was looking forward to their deal as he continued, "Since we reached an agreement, I might as well give you a piece of news for free... The Star Origin Guards' grand battle formation might rely on their Star Robes, but what is even more important is the Formation Talismans used to make them. The talisman is created by the Star Origin Lord himself, and it's a rank seven talisman. The Star Origin separated them into 7 different rank six talismans and only by using them would the battle formation achieve its greatest might."

Shang Xia's expression sank and became extremely ugly after hearing what True Immortal Geng said. "You... You told me this after we agreed to our deal on purpose!"

True Immortal Geng looked at Shang Xia and mocked, "What's the matter? Do you not want the Starlight Silk anymore?"

Shang Xia's expression was so overcast that it looked like it would start dipping with anger the next moment, but he gnashed his teeth and snarled, "I do."

Chapter 1329: Sixth Page of the Star Map

In Star Beast Nest No.1...

Kou Chongxue stared at the Starlight Silk before him with a strange expression and heard what happened during their deal from Shang Xia.

When he was done, Kou Chongxue asked hesitantly, “Do you think... Do you think he actually wanted to give you these Starlight Silk anyway and was merely finding an excuse to do so?”

After thinking for a moment, Shang Xia muttered, “No matter what, I feel like he’s a simple man... He didn’t plan on hiding his goal of handing us Starlight Silk either and he probably hopes that we will take the frontline during the battle with the Star Origin Dao Field...”

“Is that it?! Is that all?!” Kou Chongxue frowned. He didn’t quite believe what he was hearing.

Shang Xia knew that Kou Chongxue hadn’t seen the entire process of their exchange and even if he did, he would only suspect that True Immortal Geng had his own goal. In the end, he sighed helplessly, “No matter what, the secrets he revealed about the Star Origin Dao Field is pretty much true.”

Kou Chongxue didn’t know what True Immortal Geng was playing at, and he eventually turned his attention to the Starlight Silk Shang Xi obtained and he asked, “What do you plan to do with these? Are you planning to make them into Star Robes? How should you deal with the Variant Formation Talismans on them in that case? You can’t possibly personally inscribe the talisman on them individually, right?”

“From the replica Star Robes True Immortal Shao of the Spirit Tinkle World provided... It seems like those talismans were individually inscribed...” Shang Xia muttered.

“In that case, the replica Star Robes they gave us shouldn’t be able to be reused, right? Otherwise, why would they give it to us so easily?” Kou Chongxue frowned.

After a short moment of contemplation, Shang Xia sighed, “Let’s ask the Spirit Tinkle World and Spirit Thistle World for help... We can’t do everything ourselves, right? There’s also the matter of the battle formation itself. It would be best if they get dragged into this to prevent Feng Ziyong’s involvement from being exposed.”

Kou Chongxue glanced at him before nodding slowly. “This is very reasonable...”

...

After returning to the Spirit Luxuriant World, Shang Xia heard that the various powers were still gathering to slay sea spiritual beasts and he didn’t care much about them.

Instead, the matter of 3 new Holy Lands caught his attention. They were created after the integration of the world fragment of the Spirit Dusk World and 1 of them appeared in the Shu Continent, vying for control with the Jianmen Institution. It was also said that the Yuanchen Sect was supporting them.

The other appeared in the Sha Continent, which was even more desolate than the Bing Continent the Ice Essence Sect established itself. With their development, every single continent of the Spirit Luxuriant World finally possessed a Holy Land at the very least.

Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia might have integrated the world fragment into the Hai Continent, the You Continent, the Bing Continent, the Yan Continent, the Ji Continent, and the Liao Continent, but the world origin the world fragment contained benefited the other continents as well.

The other factions were able to draw on the world origin from the World Origin Source, and the world grew as a whole. Naturally, the more barren the continent was, the more they benefited from it. The Sha Continent was the most barren of them all and that was why they gained the most...

After Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue returned to the institution, they went to the Star Observatory immediately.

When they arrived, a stone platform that held a thick bronze book slowly rose.

It was the first time Ge Qingzhu saw the secret bronze book which was a guarded secret in the Tongyou Institution by both high-level True Immortals, which was also known as the Star Map.

Shang Xia, Kou Chongxue, Yuan Qiuyuan, Sun Haiwei, and a select few experts were the only ones who knew of its existence. The only reason Sun Haiwei and the others knew was also because they were the ones who discovered it in the first place.

In the past, Kou Chongxue opened the first 2 pages of the Star Map, showing the location of the Spirit Luxuriant World on the first page and the Azure Flame World on the second. The Azure Flame World was a key reason behind the rise of the Spirit Luxuriant World and the Tongyou Institution, and they would never forget it.

With the help of Xin Lu and Yuan Qiuyuan, they opened the third page, finding the ruins of another world. It was where Kou Chongxue first came into contact with the Essence Refining Void Returning Formation that Tong Yutang was using to advance to the fourth tier.

After that, neither of them continued to flip through the Star Map. Their cultivation rose rapidly after and Yuan Qiuyuan's art of stargazing also improved. Despite that, they never brought out the Star Map.

The reason was simple. As they forced the pages open, the carvings on the different pages were showing signs of fading. It was especially so when Shang Xia used his tyrannical Six Harmony inner qi to do so. Every time they forcefully removed the restrictions on each page, they caused irreversible damage to it.

Since Yuan Qiuyuan finally became a Grand Stargazer and his inheritance came from the Heaven Observation Sect the Star Origin Dao Field had kept for many years, along with the situation of the Heaven Observation Field becoming far too urgent to ignore, Kou Chongxue felt that it was time to open the Star Map again.

The first 3 pages of the Star Map were open and all 3 True Immortals stood in 3 different directions with Yuan Qiuyuan standing right in front of the Star Map. With a warm smile on his face, Kou Chongxue asked, "How is it? Are you confident to flip open the rest of the pages?"

Yuan Qiuyuan had a strange expression on his face when he heard what Kou Chongxue said. He lightly touched the fourth page and under the sluggish gazes of the rest, it was separated from the rest of the book.

"You... You flipped it just like that?!" Ge Qingzhu gasped while looking at Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue. It seemed like he was chiding them for acting like opening a new page was a difficult task.

Shang Xia pretty much failed to maintain his composure and he grumbled, “There has to be some sort of trick behind it... Little Yuan, what do you say?”

Yuan Qiuyuan looked at Shang Xia before looking at the rest and mumbled softly, “I... I just thought that I would be able to open it easily and it opened...”

Ge Qingzhu’s shoulders trembled as he tried to hold back his laughter.

Kou Chongxue’s expression didn’t change as he acted as though he had seen through everything.

Shang Xia seemed to have learned the art of being shameless from Kou Chongxue well in recent years and he quickly composed himself. He turned to Yuan Qiuyuan to ask, “So... Where is the location recorded on the map?”

“From the looks of it, it should be the Essence Ping World!” Yuan Qiuyuan said with certainty without even looking at the map again. He had been observing the region of space since Shang Xia discovered it a long time ago and he was no stranger to it.

To put it in perspective, the fourth page of the Star Map brought them no benefits.

A light flashed in Kou Chongxue’s eyes and he asked suddenly, “Little Yuan, are you able to continue flipping through the pages?”

“Probably...” Yuan Qiuyuan nodded slowly.

After he spoke, he reached for the next page. This time, it looked a lot more difficult than before.

Once he flipped the page, he gasped and introduced before Shang Xia asked, “This seems to be the location of the Spirit Faith World and its affiliated worlds...”

The True Immortals exchanged a glance before Ge Qingzhu sighed, “It’s another place we already know... Don’t tell me the next page contains the location of the Essence Xing World...”

Kou Chongxue indicated for Yuan Qiuyuan to try flipping to the next page, but Yuan Qiuyuan seemed to hesitate as he turned serious. He didn’t reach for it immediately. Instead, he formed a hand seal and started to gather starlight from the Star Observatory.

With the energy that was gathered in his palm, he strained himself to flip open the 6th page.

Ge Qingzhu craned his neck over to take a look and mumbled, “It won’t really be the Essence Xing World, right?”

Kou Chongxue and Shang Xia turned to look at Yuan Qiuyuan in unison.

Yuan Qiuyuan looked perplexed, and after some hesitation, he gathered the starlight on the Star Map, producing a mighty chart in the air. A mighty scene was painted in front of them.

“It’s not the Essence Xing World.” Yuan Qiuyuan’s claim caused the True Immortals to feel a wave of excitement, but he quickly continued, “But... This world should be outside the Star Curtain and it won’t be easily located...”

Chapter 1330: 4 Pages, 4 Spirit Worlds

Even though they couldn’t be sure, they could infer that the information on the first 4 pages of the Star Map pointed to regions within the Heaven Observation Dao Field.

However, after the 5th page where the Spirit Faith World was located, the rest of the world recorded within should be located outside the Heaven Observation Field.

Originally, Shang Xia and Kou Chongxue guessed that the next page would record the location of the Essence Xing World, but from the looks of it, it didn't look anywhere close.

"Is this a world that hasn't been discovered?" Ge Qingzhu's gaze shifted around as he asked with uncertainty.

"It probably isn't an undiscovered world. It's just that we don't know about it." Kou Chongxue muttered. He frowned at Yuan Qiuyuan next, "Can you determine any accurate information from this?"

After thinking slightly, Yuan Qiuyuan explained, "The Star Map is a treasure that existed a thousand years ago. We don't know if the worlds recorded on it still exist, and we have no idea if it grew stronger or weaker..."

Kou Chongxue looked at Yuan Qiuyuan who was exuding an aura completely different from his normally slow self and nodded, "I know that you have an opinion on this. Speak your mind. Leave the thinking to us."

Sighing softly, Yuan Qiuyuan continued, "From this page, it seems like the world recorded here was a Spirit World 1000 years ago..."

Exchanging a glance with Shang Xia, Kou Chongxue mumbled in a low voice, "Try to look for its location in the void and find a safe path over. Monitor everything around it and remember to keep this a secret!"

Shang Xia, Ge Qingzhu, and Yuan Qiuyuan nodded instinctively.

However, Yuan Qiuyuan seemed to have thought of something and he asked, "But... Patriarch Kou, with the Star Map, locating the world wouldn't be too difficult. It's not impossible to look for a safe path to it either. The troublesome part is looking for a weakness in the Star Curtain. However, the moment we do so, the weakness in the Star Curtain will only grow bigger... At the very least, the area we will use will only become weaker!"

As soon as he spoke, everyone on the Star Observatory fell silent.

Shang Xia only broke the silence a moment later. "You just need to look for the best possible route that leads there. You don't have to trouble yourself with anything else."

Yuan Qiuyuan looked at Kou Chongxue whose mind didn't seem to be on the matter and muttered softly, "Yes..."

Ge Qingzhu looked at the high-level True Immortals of the institution and asked suddenly, "Are we going to continue opening the Star Map?"

"Do it." Kou Chongxue looked at Shang Xia once before giving the order.

Yuan Qiuyuan nodded before reaching out to flip the next page. He seemed to have used all his might to gather starlight onto his hands, and flipping the next page took everything out of him.

Ge Qingzhu wanted to help, but he was quickly stopped by Yuan Qiuyuan.

“Disciple can still hold on. Please do not touch me!”

Yuan Qiuyuan exhaled a long breath as he finally flipped open the 7th page. Only when it was open did he look at Ge Qingzhu with a look of embarrassment, “This Star Map is a little strange... Only by using the power of starlight can someone open it properly. If anyone else tries to interfere, it might greatly damage the book. If we continue forcing it open, the Star Map will be destroyed...”

Ge Qingzhu chuckled softly to indicate his understanding, “Oh? Looks like I nearly messed up earlier!”

Shang Xia also laughed at the side, “Let’s take a look at the information on the 7th page... From the looks of it, it doesn’t look like the location of a world...”

Opening the 7th page of the Star Map clearly took a lot out of Yuan Qiuyuan. The True Immortals intentionally gave him a chance to catch his breather and after he recovered slightly with the dense heaven and earth qi in the Elysium did they urge him to display his art of stargazing as he revealed the location recorded on the 7th page.

It took slightly longer than the last time before he was able to determine the location on the Star Map.

After some time, they saw Yuan Qiuyuan whose forehead was soaked in perspiration heave a sigh of relief. Ge Qingzhu asked, “How is it?”

Finally breaking out into laughter, Yuan Qiuyuan explained, “This page also records the location of a Spirit World, but it’s even further than the Spirit World recorded on the previous page. Finding it is a little more difficult...”

“This is great! You can deduce the approximate location of this world, and leave finding the world itself to us!” Shang Xia nodded excitedly.

Yuan Qiuyuan couldn’t help but remind them, “Are you forgetting...”

“Heh, I know what you wish to say!” Shang Xia chuckled and interrupted him before he could finish. “It has been 1000 years or so and the world might be destroyed or might have developed to a point where we can’t mess with them, right?”

“Yes... Exactly.” Yuan Qiuyuan agreed.

Without waiting for anything else, Kou Chongxue asked, “Little Yuan, are you able to flip another page of the Star Map?”

Yuan Qiuyuan looked at the Star Map that was almost half open and revealed an ugly expression. “With my current achievements in the art of stargazing, I should be able to flip open another page. However, my cultivation is a little lacking and I’m afraid my dipper qi wouldn’t be enough to support me through it. I’m afraid I will only be able to do it after my cultivation increases a little.”

Shang Xia started laughing suddenly, “If it’s just a matter of your dipper qi not being enough, I can help you. All you need to do is to gather the power of starlight.”

Yuan Qiuyuan blinked in shock and looked at him in shock, “This... How is this even possible?”

Shang Xia didn’t explain, simply reaching out with his hand to tap on Yuan Qiuyuan’s dantian.

Instinctively, he wanted to avoid Shang Xia, but Shang Xia's finger landed before he knew it.

Without waiting for him to let out a gasp of fright, a powerful wave of dippier qi entered his dantian. Strangely enough, there was no sign of rejection. It was as though the energy belonged to him in the first place and his dantian even actively accepted the energy while blending it into his own.

Yuan Qiuyuan became extremely excited with the discovery of the increased energy in his dantian.

"How is it?" Shang Xia smiled and asked.

Yuan Qiuyuan was dumbstruck and he only managed to react after some time. "This... This is incredible!"

With Shang Xia's assistance, Yuan Qiuyuan quickly gathered the power of starlight to flip open the 8th page. Even though the energy required surpassed anything he could muster, it seemed as though the energy he was pouring into the Star Map was inexhaustible.

Soon after, he used his art of stargazing and the location recorded on the 8th page was revealed. After a simple deduction, he determined it to be another Spirit World. It seemed as though the worlds discovered on the 6th, 7th, and 8th pages weren't too far away from the Heaven Observation Field, and they were merely slightly further away from each other.

"The first 4 pages record the worlds within the Heaven Observation Field, and the next 4 record worlds outside the Heaven Observation Field. Moreover, all of them were pretty much Spirit Worlds... At the very least, they were Spirit Worlds 1000 years ago!" Shang Xia mumbled as he looked at the Star Map. "We have already opened half of the Star Map... I wonder what the other half contains!"